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 CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY  
 INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY Germany (Russian Zone)

DATE DISTR. 12 February 1951

SUBJECT Railroad Tank Cars and Heavy-Duty Flatcars

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" The acute shortage of ZMW tank cars necessitates that the dispatch of these cars be given priority in accordance with orders given by the rolling stock office. In no event will ZMW tank cars be kept idle. " \*

" TO: All Railroad Stations and Repair Shops in the District. Flatcars, particularly SS, SSL and SSK type cars, capable of transit operations, are currently urgently needed by the occupation power. It is therefore ordered that all these cars be turned in to the railroad repair shops immediately. All railroad repair and maintenance shops will work special shifts so as to put the flatcars in good shape. All other repair work will have to be suspended, only SS, SSL, SSy, R and X type cars will be worked upon. \*\* Progress of the work will be reported daily to the president of the Erfurt railroad district. " \*\*\*

25X1 Comment. The fact that railroad tank cars, particularly category I cars, such as used for the shipment of benzene and benzole, are a critical item in the German economy, was pointed out previously. 25X1

25X1 SS type cars: Flatcars with four or more axles, with a minimum load capacity of 35 tons and a loading surface 15 meters long.

SSL type cars: Same as SS type cars, but with a loading surface 18 meters long.

SSK type cars: Same as SS type cars but with a loading surface shorter than 15 meters.

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R type cars: Flatcars with side boards 40 cm high and wooden side racks; load capacity, 15 tons.

X type cars: Flatcars with low sideboards used for carrying construction materials; load capacity, 15 tons.

25X1 [ ] Comment. The report again revealed the acute shortage of heavy-duty flatcars in one of the eight railroad districts of the zone. Most of the cars mentioned are used by the Soviets for the shipment of tanks. The total number of such cars available in the zone is estimated at 350 heavy-duty flatcars and 50 well-wagons. [ ] Those cars are overaged and need repairs because of excessive use.

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